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25th ANNIVERSARY
of the
AUGUST REVOLUTION (Aug. 19, 1945)
and the
FOUNDING OF THE DRVN (Sept. 2, 1945)

25th REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS SOLEMNLY OBSERVED

A commemorative meeting for the 25th Revolution and Independence Days was held on August 31 at Ba Dinh Hall in Hanoi under the chairmanship of Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN, with the participation of the leaders of the State and the Viet Nam Workers' Party, including DRVN Vice-President Nguyen Luong Bang, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC Le Duan, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee Truong Chinh, and Premier Pham Van Dong.

The acting head of the Special Representation of the RSVN as well as heads of the diplomatic missions in Hanoi and many foreign guests were also present.

Speaking at the meeting, Premier Pham Van Dong reviewed the various stages successfully traversed by the Vietnamese people over the past 25 years and set forth the immediate tasks of the Vietnamese revolution.

We reproduce in this issue and in that of next week large excerpts from this speech.

A State reception was given by Premier Pham Van Dong on August 31, and attended by the leaders of the State, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, other political parties, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, mass organizations (youth, women, trade-unions, various religious communities...), representatives of various minority ethnics in Viet Nam, the heads of the Special Representation of the RSVN and diplomatic missions in Hanoi as well as foreign specialists in North Viet Nam and other foreign guests.

In his speech, the Prime Minister exalted the important successes obtained in the fight against US aggression and in the building of socialism. He expressed the profound gratitude of our people for the devoted

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25 YEARS OF NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Excerpts from Premier PHAM VAN DONG's speech at the grand meeting held on Aug. 31 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

THE past quarter-century has been the most glorious period in the history of our nation. It is closely linked with the birth and growth of the new social regime, the product of the August Revolution. The new regime embodies the combination of the two forces of our era — national independence and socialism —, the combination of the fine traditions of our nation with the most advanced ideology of mankind. It represents the close ties between our people and the revolutionary forces in the world.

During this historic period of 25 years, our country has gone through profound revolutionary changes: First, there was the August Revolution

which liberated our people from the double yoke of oppression by the colonialists and feudalists and elevated them to the status of masters of society, and took our country out of obscurity to become the present Democratic Republic of Viet Nam whose exploits in fighting and construction are resounding far and wide. Then came the victorious war of resistance against the French colonialists, which dealt a crushing blow at old colonialism, helping to start the process of piecemeal disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism. And today, it is the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, which has brought our people to the forefront and the peak of the world people's fight against

aggressive and bellicose US imperialism. There are also the proud accomplishments recorded in all fields — political, economic and cultural — in the building of a new life in the North which is advancing from the condition of a former colonial and semi-feudal country straight to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

In this glorious historic day, the heart of every Vietnamese is filled with pride and gratitude as he turns his thoughts to our beloved and venerated President Ho Chi Minh, the leader and great teacher who, together with our Party, led our people to the triumph of the August

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25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST REVOLUTION AND THE FOUNDING OF THE DRVN

South Viet Nam

Meeting Marks Revolution and Independence Days

A grand meeting was held in a liberated area in South Viet Nam on August 25 under the auspices of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces to mark the 25th anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and the Independence Day (September 2).

Addressing the meeting, President Huynh Tan Phat of the RSVN PKG recalled that the August Revolution had opened for the Vietnamese people an era of independence and freedom after nearly a hundred years of slavery and misery.

"Since the US began executing its 'Vietnamization' of the war plan," he said, "the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique has increased the draft and coercive measures against the people. The latter have been able to see more clearly than ever before the aggressive and bellicose nature of the US and the traitorous nature of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, and their dark scheme to prolong the aggressive war against South Viet Nam, with a view to realizing Nixon's criminal plan to make Vietnamese fight Viet-Nam and Asians fight Asians."

"The urban people of South Viet Nam including workers, students, pupils, intellectuals, well-known personalities, are feeling profound hatred for the repressive, rotten and dictatorial regime created by the US in South Viet Nam. That is why they have in the past months struggled ever more

powerfully and directly against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, for vital rights, restoration of peace, an end to the US war, US troop pull-out, and overthrow of this triumvirate. Notwithstanding the enemy's fascist and brazen repression and cajolery and divisive manoeuvres, the people's movement has been mounting and a broad front of joint actions has taken shape embracing wide sections of the people including nationalist-minded members of the puppet army and administration."

"The valiant fight of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people on all battlefields is an eloquent proof of our people's tradition of indomitability and the undying militancy of the August Revolution."

A message of greeting was sent on Sept. 1 by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the President of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam; and Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam; to Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN and President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; and Premier Pham Van Dong.

"Under the glorious banner of the August Revolution and the Independence Day of September 2, and in the flash of the great achievements already recorded," the message said, "the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, united millions as one man around the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, are resolved to act upon the teaching of the great President Ho Chi Minh: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom' and 'We must fight on until there remains not a single aggressor in our country'."

"They are resolved to persevere in, and step up, the resistance until the 'Vietnamization of the war' plan of the US imperialists is defeated and all US troops are withdrawn and the puppet army and administration are toppled, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of our Fatherland."

"The South Vietnamese people are determined, together with their fellow-countrymen throughout the country, to strengthen their solidarity with the Lao and Cambodian brothers in implementing the joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples, as well as to defeat completely the US aggressors and their henchmen on all the three battlefields - Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia - and fulfil with glory their task toward the nation and their obligation toward all the peoples struggling against US-led imperialism."

25th REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS SOLEMNLY OBSERVED

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assistance and vigorous support given during the past quarter-century by the brotherly socialist countries, the friendly countries and progressive people in the world. He reiterated Viet Nam's unshakable determination to carry on and step up our fight against US aggression until complete victory and bring socialist construction to fruition as recommended by President Ho Chi Minh in his last message.

ON this occasion, the Premier's Office also gave a reception in honour of foreign specialists who have brought us their technical aid in the work of socialist construction.

DURING a moving ceremony at the War Memorial in Hanoi, President Ton Duc Thang and the leading officials of the State and Party came to pay homage and lay wreaths.

ON September 1, President Ton Duc Thang inaugurated the biggest exhibition ever held in Viet Nam, with the "Twenty-Five Years of Struggle and Construction of the DRVN" theme. The display comprises five parts:

- The success of the August Revolution and the birth of the DRVN.
- 25 years of struggle of the Vietnamese people in defence of the Fatherland.
- Socialist revolution in North Viet Nam.
- The DRVN in the context of the present era, its relations with the socialist camp and the world.
- Forward to the completion of the glorious work of President Ho Chi Minh.

A decree was signed on August 26 by President Ton Duc Thang granting amnesty to detainees who had shown progress in their re-education: they are to have their penalties reduced or be released before term.

A Vietnamese Film Festival, the first of its kind in Viet Nam, has been held in Hanoi, initiating the Viet Nam Film Month.

During this month, more than 100 selected films will be screened in North Viet Nam. These productions of the Vietnamese studios include features, documentaries, newsreels, animated cartoons, puppet films and science-propagating films, etc.

THE Cuban National soccer team on a friendship tour in the DRVN played its first official match in Hanoi on Sept. 2, which ended 3 to 2 in favour of the People's Army eleven at a capacity stadium.

A vast emulation campaign in agricultural and industrial production has been launched throughout North Viet Nam since the beginning of August.

The peasants are stepping up weeding and manuring of the rice crop. In many provinces such as Thanh Hoa, the quantity of fertilizers used has increased 50% compared with the previous season.

At the Hanoi Engineering Plant, output has been surpassed by female teams, from 105 to 130%, of the set norms.

At the Nam Dinh Textile Combine, workers have started a drive to reach 25 workdays and an extra 500/1,000 metres of cloth per head per month.

A delegation of 25 representatives of different organizations of Vietnamese residents in France, and comprising intellectuals, workers, students and tradesmen, arrived here to participate in the 25th founding celebrations of the DRVN.

Sept. 2, 1945 Sept. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N.

is 25 Years Old

THE first Vietnamese films were hymns to freedom. They recorded the scene of the proclamation of Viet Nam's independence by President Ho Chi Minh, in Ba Dinh Square on September 2, 1945.

The colonial heritage was so poor that the Vietnamese national cinema only saw the light of day after liberation of the country. Since then, its history has been one, with the national history.

"The youngest cinema in Asia," as George Sadoul relevantly termed it, has been formed and has grown in the fire of two resistance wars: the first one against the French colonialists from 1940 to 1954, and the second one against the US imperialists. Its pioneers began to operate with obsolete 16mm cameras and some hundred metres of film on which the pictures could be brought out only at great pains. In Nam Bo (South Viet Nam) films were developed in most incredibly hard conditions, even in jars. This job was most of the time done in small craft sailing up and down the river with the tide which brought them deep in the Mekong Delta. Sometimes the boat drew near urban centres for the clandestine purchase of ice so necessary to some chemical processes.

In the first resistance war, the theme was to galvanize the people with documentaries and newsreels showing the activities of fighters and organization of the rear. The most greatest battles were shot: the attack on Moc Hoa, the ambushes at La Nga and Bo Cat in the South, the battle of Dong Khe (Frontier Campaign) in the Northwest Campaign and the Dien Bien Phu victory in the North. Two films were made with the co-operation of Chinese cameramen (Viet Nam khong chien: Resisting Viet Nam) and Soviet cameramen (Viet Nam tren duong thang loi: Viet Nam on the Road to Victory).

With the assistance of socialist countries, and by dint of patience and intelligence, the Vietnamese film makers were able to achieve rapid progress, chiefly after the peace settlement in Geneva in 1954.

The cinema has efficiently helped mobilize the broad masses in economic rehabilitation, socialist construction and national reunification. The documentaries typical of that epoch were: *Chong*

Law (Fighting Drought), *Tro la dien dien* (Return to Dien Bien Phu), *Nuoc va bac hung hai* (Water Flows to Bac Hung Hai), *Duoi mai trong moi* (Under the Roof of New Schools). The struggle for national reunification was faithfully reflected in the first feature film produced in 1959: *Chung moi dong song* (We Share the Same River). Other films followed inspired by the resistance war against French colonialism: *Lao trung tuyen* (Fire in Second Line), *Con chim vanh khuyen* (The Fledgling), *Vo chong A Phu* (The A Phu Couple), *Chi Tu Huan* (The Young Woman of Bai Sao), *Kim Dong* (Little Kim Dong), *Nguoi chen ai tre* (The Young Combatant), etc.

The first animated cartoon dates back to 1960.

In the same period, in South Viet Nam, the cameramen in the NFL-controlled areas, contained the tradition of their elders by fighting side by side with the people with their cameras and rifles. From their dark rooms installed underground or in the virgin jungle appeared the films shot in the fire of battle: *Chung toi huoc phai cam sung* (We Are Compelled to Take Up Arms), *Mien Nam chien dau* (Embattled South Viet Nam), *Chien thang Tay Ninh* (The Tay Ninh Battle).

During the four years of US brutal air escalation in North Viet Nam (1964-1968), the cinema, together with other cultural branches, made a brilliant contribution to the fight against aggression. In the forefront of the battle are newsreels and documentaries. Always present in "hot spots," the cameramen recorded exalting images of the fighting and production and convincing proofs of US crimes: *Luy kep Vinh Linh* (Vinh Linh Steel Fortresses), *Dau song ngon gi* (On the Crest of the Wave), *Nguoi Ham Rong* (Ham Rong Combatants), *Duong qua Ho Tien* (The Road through Ho Tien), *Mot ngay hai noi* (A Day in Hanoi), *Chien dau giu dao* (Defence of the Island), *Nhung nguoi mo duong* (The Road Hackers)...

0 Tham (The Wood of Miss Tham), *Go giao Hanh* (School-Mistress Hanh), *Moi chien cong* (An Exploit), etc. Scientific popularization films have helped develop the war economy (rice-transplanting technique, cultivation of azolla...), train people's militia and organize AA defence.

From 1965 to 1968, the *Giai Phong* (Liberation) Studio in South Viet Nam asserted its personality with such valuable newsreels and documentaries as: *Thuyt thang de quoc*, *My sam luoc* (Resolved to Defeat the

Hollywoodian snobism and all esoteric tendency, have a typically Vietnamese character.

Covering a variegated range of subjects, they sound a predominant note in the history of the Vietnamese people for a quarter of a century - revolutionary heroism. It is the heroism of ordinary people, loving peace and happiness but ready to make every sacrifice for independence and freedom. Our heroes, be they pictured in newsreels, documentaries, feature films or animated cartoons, are

the young generations brought up in our schools and during the second resistance war. Many of them have fallen on the battlefield, the camera or the rifle in hand. During the US war of destruction, many teams worked day and night in areas constantly raided by US planes. Some of them filmed scenes at the 17th parallel, from the top of a flagpole, under the threatening muzzles of enemy guns. Though having a leg broken by a rocket, an NFL cameraman still refused to give up his work.

The Vietnamese cinema is



At the Founding Congress of Vietnamese Cinema Workers' Association held in Hanoi on November 13 and 14, 1969, film star Tra Giang delivered a message to the cinema workers of South Viet Nam liberated areas.

U S Imperialist Aggressors), *Du la Ca Chi* (Ca Chi Guerrilla), *Hat lua vanh dai* (Rice on the Defence Belt).

This short review shows that the Vietnamese cinema has matured with all kinds of films. Starting from newsreels and documentaries, it has quickly advanced to feature films which, in turn, bear the stamp of the present national effort. It is the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the people's power which have put it on that national and profoundly humanitarian path.

In extolling the resistance to old and neo-colonialism as well as socialist construction, the Vietnamese cinema continues the Vietnamese people's age-old fighting tradition against foreign aggression and natural calamities. Its works, of a wholesome realism and freed from all

peasants who valiantly embark on the agricultural co-operative path, or join the army or patriotic workers' brigades, workers devoted to socialist industrialization, or soldiers sprung from the people, gentle and modest but courageous and tenacious in the fight, women, sweet and faithful but resolute, old women who risk their lives for the army, children who consciously accept sacrifices for the Fatherland.

It is also collective heroism, mass heroism as featured in the battle for the road (*Tren nhue chuong duong*), in the supply of the troops (*Duong nhue phia truoc*), in political action (*Nguyen Tan Trai*), etc.

Let's pay tribute to the courage, skill and self-sacrifice of our cameramen trained mostly in the high resistance wars, let alone all

bound to the masses, expressing their innermost aspirations, and frequently prompts them solutions to their problems. During US air raids, it adapted itself to the worst conditions in order to give film shows even in the hardest hit areas, by using electric generators, acetylene lamps and handy contraptions. To reduce the risk, in urban centres the number of film-shows and spectators was limited. 600 mobile projection teams made long trips on lorries, boats, on foot, under rains of bombs and shells to go in quest of spectators: soldiers in fighting trenches, workers in evacuated workshops, farmers in their threatened co-operatives, young civilian volunteers working on communication lines, fishermen along

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55 UNITS AND 42 FIGHTERS CITED ARMY HEROES

THE President of the Republic has conferred the distinction of Heroes of the People's Armed Forces on 55 units and 42 fighters, belonging to different arms and services: infantry, artillery, A.A. defence, engineering, telecommunications, radar, transports, logistics, medical service, navy, air force, armed security and militia.

Three of these units received the award for the second time: an A.A.

battalion, a company of people's air force and a special unit. Their age varied between 20 and 54. Three women figured on the list (including an infantry major).

The people's militia took pride of place in the list of honour: 6 units (including an artillery women unit and a quinquagenarians' platoon) and 6 combatants (including two young women).

25 YEARS OF NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND CONSTRUCTION

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Revolution, the founder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the man who all along the past half century led our people from one victory to another and, by his teachings, will continue to do so for ever.

On September 2, 1945, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam came into being. President Ho Chi Minh stressed in the Declaration of Independence: "Viet Nam has the right to be free and independent, and in fact it is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty."

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the fruit of the revolutionary struggle of the people throughout the country, is a people's national democratic State representing the mistletoe of our people from North to South. With reference to the past, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is the abolition of one century of colonial domination and several thousand years of feudal rule. Concerning the future, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam reflects the will and represents the strength of our people determined to safeguard their national independence and pave the way for a direct advance to socialism.

Due to the obvious defeats suffered by the US in its war of aggression in Viet Nam, Johnson stepped down and Nixon took over the United States presidency under the deceptive slogan of restoring peace. But President Nixon spoke of peace only to conceal his policy of continuing and intensifying the war of aggression, in furtherance of the so-called "Vietnamization of the war." That plan is essentially intended to perpetuate the US occupation of South Viet Nam, feverishly build up the puppet army and administration, push "pacification" forward, using extremely brutal methods with a view to realizing the US crazy ambition of turning South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and military base of the US and perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam.

The plan for the "Vietnamization of the war," born of the failure of the US, has met with successive setbacks on the South Viet Nam battlefield ever since early 1969.

US aggressors had thought they could get out of their predicament by expanding the war to the whole of Indochina. But their military adventure in Cambodia has proved to be a dismal failure. The US "special war" in Laos has also suffered repeated blows. The setbacks sustained by the US imperialists in Indochina have driven them into dire straits right in the United States and in the world.

Our protracted and arduous fight is unfolding in very favourable conditions whereas our enemy is facing insurmountable difficulties. Our people throughout the country, keeping firm their determination to fight and win, are persevering in and stepping up the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, with the resolve to act upon President Ho Chi Minh's Testament: "Whatever difficulties and hardships ahead, our people are sure of total triumph. The US imperialists shall have to quit. Our Fatherland shall be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South shall be reunited under the same roof."

At the same time, the Vietnamese people are wholeheartedly and unreservedly strengthening their militant solidarity with the peoples of our two brotherly neighbouring countries in order to completely defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their flunkies in the whole of Indochina.

Our people's victory will be one with an international and historic significance as pointed out by President Ho Chi Minh: "We, a small nation, will have earned the signal honour of defeating, through a heroic struggle, two big imperialisms — the French and the American — and making a worthy contribution to the national liberation movement."

In the past sixteen years, our people has had to go through four years of a terrible war of destruction and to spend 5 years healing the wounds of two wars, so that the actual time given to peaceful construction has been only about seven years. In this period, the people's democratic power, under the leadership of the Party, has brought into full play the strength of millions of labouring people in the building of a new life, and have recorded achievements our people can't be proud of.

It is thanks to the achievements in socialist transformation and socialist construction from 1954 to 1965 that North Viet Nam has

been strong enough to defeat the US war of destruction and fulfil its duty to the South. During the four years of war, in spite of 100,000 enemy attacks and over one million tons of bombs and shells of various kinds rained on them, the North Viet Nam people have achieved a miracle. They have safeguarded and increased the strength of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in all fields—political, military, economic and cultural.

After only a very short period of construction, the socialist regime has gradually taken shape and grown

in the world. On the economic plane, the immediate task of our people in the North is to mobilize all potentialities and all existing reserves to eliminate



These "Binh Gia"-type tractors manufactured by Ha Tay Engineering Plant (specializing in agricultural tools) suit North Vietnamese paddies.

out of the age-old small production in our country. Socialist production relations in the regime of ownership have been set up and continuously consolidated, constituting the basis for the formation and development of socialism. Economic construction and the boost given to agricultural and industrial production are gradually giving rise to a new economic structure suited for the initial steps taken by our country in the transitional period. The face of our country has changed completely, and the people's material and especially cultural life is already a far cry from what it was under the old regime.

In the new situation that has emerged, the socialist North is assuming an ever more important position in our people's resistance to US aggression.

The sequel of the war in the shortest time possible, is a vigorous step forward in economic life, rehabilitate and develop production, increase the amount of social products turned out in order to meet the needs of consumption and gradual accumulation, build an economic structure conforming to the Party's line in the present situation, and at the same time muster forces for large-scale socialist construction when conditions permit.

We must boost the production of agricultural commodities and consumer goods, considering this to be the main direction at present. We must step up the development of regional economies while striving to restore and develop the key branches of the central economy.

Every one of us should bear in mind and act upon President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: "Each extra ton of coal, each added machine, each additional quintal of food... we obtain by boosting production and practicing economy will help speed up socialist construction in the North, constitute a support for the valiant struggle of our compatriots in the South, and contribute to the peaceful reunification of the country."

The successes our people have recorded in the past 25 years in their struggle against the imperialist aggressors to defend national independence and the fruits of the revolution, and in the building of a new life in all fields, are eloquent and brilliant demonstrations of the absolute superiority, tremendous vitality and mighty strength of the new regime.

Sprung from the victory of the August Revolution, the new regime is the most precious gain of our people. It symbolizes the independence of our nation and the freedom of our people, and is the guarantee for

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TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MAUSOLEUM

AN exhibition of designs of President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum opened in Hanoi on Sept. 2, 1970.

Out of 120 entries by 300 architects, engineers and other technicians, 38 have been retained for consideration. They are displayed in this exhibition. The public will be invited to offer their opinions on these projects. All suggestions will be taken

into account for elaboration of the final design.

In the opening speech, Bui Quang Tao, Minister of Constructions, pointed out: "President Ho Chi Minh's future mausoleum will be a highly significant work, politically, scientifically, technically and architecturally. It should be also a modern, national, impressive but simple work."

25 YEARS...

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the future strength and prosperity of our country. Thanks to education by President Ho Chi Minh and our Party, our people deeply understand the nature and value of the new regime, and stand ready to make every sacrifice in its defence. The absolute superiority, vitality and strength of our regime stem from its deep roots in, and close ties with, the people.

War is the biggest trial for a social regime. Can there be a more prolonged, bitter and significant trial than that which our new regime has undergone over the past quarter-century? In the protracted fight against the most powerful and barbarous imperialists of our time, in those life-and-death confrontations, our new regime has triumphed and matured.

The new regime has built and ceaselessly strengthened the people's armed forces, and organized a big political army comprising millions of people, these two forces being closely co-ordinated in the fight against the enemy. The new regime makes it possible for the rear base to assist the front line, by providing it with material forces and communicating to it these great thoughts and feelings of our entire people: their determination to fight and win. The new regime represents the all-out war of resistance in the military, political, economic, ideological and cultural spheres. It brings out the internationalist line of our Party, and the foreign policy of the Democratic

Republic of Viet Nam, tightens the friendship between our country and the brother socialist countries, and the ties between our people's fight against the imperialist aggressors and all peoples throughout the world who have independence and freedom at heart.

Relying mainly on its own strength, while making full use of world support, our new regime has been set up, consolidated, and constantly developed in all fields.

The two years of resistance of our nation, especially the current resistance against US imperialism, together with the work of socialist transformation and construction have clearly shown that the strength of the regime lies in man: the Vietnamese man who is fighting the enemy while building a new life, considering it his sacred duty to the Fatherland and his greatest honour, who is developing to the highest degree his patriotism and combining it with proletarian internationalism and who is bringing into full play his valour, intelligence, and creativity, and giving full expression to his good qualities. Revolutionary heroism in the work of resistance and in the work of construction has brought out the traits of new man of Viet Nam who is the fruit of the whole revolutionary process unfolding in the past decades under the leadership of our Party and who combines the ideology of the working class with the tradition of thousands of years of national history.

(To be continued)



Quang Tri guerrillas (South Viet Nam) and a captured US tank.

One Year Later

(Excerpts from Nhan Dan editorial of Sept. 3, 1970)

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh departed from us on September 3, 1969. Following the appeal made by the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, we have translated our deep mourning into revolutionary deeds. His last wishes and the pledges taken by all our Party and people in Ba Dinh Square have been borne in mind by the whole nation, and have been guiding the trend of our long-term exertion to bring the Vietnamese revolution to a complete success.

On September 20, 1969, the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee gave instructions to organize study sessions on how to implement President Ho Chi Minh's supreme message. After this political drive our people have realized more clearly that the great work of our venerated leader is closely associated with that of our Party and consequently is for us a greater source of pride, confidence and courage in our march forward.

In the light of the abundant experiences gained during fifty years of application of Marxism-Leninism, President Ho Chi Minh's last directions epitomize the fundamentals which we must carry out in order to settle correctly all problems and satisfactorily discharge all revolutionary tasks. He advised the Party members to "preserve absolute purity and unity and oneness of mind in the Party as the apple of their eyes" and our Party to "preserve absolute purity and prove worthy of its role as leader and very loyal servant of the people." He made it clear that the "Party must work out a very effective plan for economic and cultural development to ceaselessly raise the living standard of the people," and emphasized: "The Resistance war against US aggression may drag on. Our compatriots may have to face new sacrifices in property and life. Whatever may happen, we must keep firm our resolve to fight the US aggressors till total victory."

About the world communist movement, he "hopes that our Party will do its best to contribute effectively to the restoration of unity among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a way which conforms to both reason and sentiment."

Since the beginning of this political campaign, the zeal to study and implement President Ho Chi Minh's Testament have been apparent in the emulation drive to carry through the present political task.

Perseveringly keeping up the effort for national salvation, the

heroic South has aggravated the US aggressors and quislings' quandary by administering them a series of setbacks and thwarting their "Vietnamization." Extending the war to Cambodia after the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak March 18, 1970 coup d'etat in an attempt to contain South Viet Nam, the US imperialists suffered bitter reverses at the hands of the heroic Cambodian people. The monolithic solidarity of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, tempered in the fire of the battle, has strengthened the resistance potential in each country. More than ever, the Vietnamese people in the North as well as in the South are firmly convinced that their struggle for national salvation will certainly be victorious as foreseen by President Ho Chi Minh.

In socialist construction, the North has recorded substantial gains. The big strides made by industry, especially by the manufacture of consumer goods and agricultural engineering, have opened up bright vistas for the national economy. After streamlining the management, chiefly in labour, a number of enterprises have seen the work-days of their staff rise and their business management improve notably. A new atmosphere prevails in the countryside with such movements as "the September 3 irrigation drive," the "tree-planting movement in memory of Uncle Ho" and the "group and apply satisfactorily the co-op constitution" campaign, the "fulfil the three agricultural norms" movement. The cultural and social activities, education, health service, letters and arts, science and technology, also have now a deeper understanding of their task which is to serve the struggle against US aggression, socialist construction and the people's life.

Certain of the superiority of our regime and the bright prospect of our nation, the thirty million old Vietnamese people, full of confidence and pride, have realized that the memory of President Ho Chi Minh is enshrined for ever in their work. His supreme message, which is an unlimited source of inspiration, has been daily and hourly translated into outstanding revolutionary deeds to the great honour of the Vietnamese people. After one year of implementation of this historic and holy document, we have grasped more firmly and acted more thoroughly upon the last teachings of our talented leader, great master and venerated father who has blazed the trail for us to complete independence, freedom, prosperity and happiness.



Dong Phong co-operative (Dong Hung district, Thai Binh province) ricefields yield annually to tons of paddy per hectare.

FUNK VOICES SUPPORT TO LAO PEOPLE'S JUST FIGHT

THE Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea issued on August 18 a statement voicing full support to the Lao people's just struggle.

"The US imperialists and their lackeys," the statement said, "are continuing their criminal aggression and 'special war' against Laos. The Lao people and their patriotic armed forces, under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front, are determined at all times to carry on the heroic struggle of self-defence for their fundamental national rights, recognized by the 1962 Geneva Agreements."

After hailing the brilliant successes of the Lao patriotic forces during the past eight years and the good will for peace of the Lao Patriotic Front, the statement went on:

"The Cambodian people, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, faithful to the obligations undertaken at the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, resolutely support the just struggle of the fraternal Lao people and reaffirm that the aggression should be settled on the basis of the March 9, 1970 joint statement of the Central Committee

of the Lao Patriotic Front, in conformity with the 1962 Geneva Agreements and pressuring the war to Laos. The American imperialists must put an end to their intervention and aggression against Laos. They must withdraw from Laos totally and unconditionally US troops, military personnel and weapons and the Thai and Saigon mercenaries. Without delay they must totally and unconditionally halt the bombing and strafing of Lao territory. The American imperialists must stop interfering in the internal affairs of Laos so that the Lao people may settle their own affairs."

The statement added:

"The Cambodian people, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, faithful to the obligations undertaken at the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, resolutely support the just struggle of the fraternal Lao people and reaffirm that the aggression should be settled on the basis of the March 9, 1970 joint statement of the Central Committee

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On August 3, 1970, 303 American lawyers issued a statement (carried by the *Baltimore Sun*) strongly opposing the Viet Nam war and arguing that the US government put an end to it and pull US troops out of South Viet Nam. They declared that the Viet Nam war ran counter to the spirit of the American constitution, and ethics, endangered US economy and finance and undermined

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Anti-War Actions in the US

ed the unity of the American people. They said that the Saigon administration did not deserve the support of the American people; the profits derived from the Viet Nam war do not compensate the cost in lives and dollars (paid by the US) which should be used at home; and they concluded that the Viet Nam war was right from the beginning a blunder which could have been avoided by the US government.

On August 8, on the 25th anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, about 150 people in Livermore (California) covered a 4 km road section from the downtown district to the Lawrence laboratories of California University dealing with the study of radio-active fall-out, in protest against the Nixon administration prolonging the Viet Nam war. On August 12, the Viet Nam March for Peace Committee in New York held a press conference to condemn the US war in Viet Nam as a contraction of the American constitution and a ruthless undertaking. In a statement issued to the press it made it clear that on October 8, next it would hand to the local authorities a resolution demanding immediate withdrawal of US troops from the war and suspension of tax payment to the Nixon administration for use in the war in Indochina. The Committee also contemplated for October 15 a big anti-war demonstration in front of the town hall.

On August 15, students' representatives from 300 American universities and colleges passed a resolution for a nation-wide week of civil disobedience movement to US government offices at all levels as pressure on the Nixon administration to end the Viet Nam war.

Mr Xuan Thuy concluded: "Only when the US government has given up its policy of prolonging and expanding its war of aggression, and its monies fighting in South Viet Nam, can the Paris Conference make progress."

On August 21, the "Viet Nam Veterans against the War" decided to stage from September 4 to 7, 1970 a "march for peace" from Morristown (New Jersey) to Valley Forge (Pennsylvania) which would end with a big rally demanding that the Nixon administration end the Viet Nam war forthwith. Senators McGovern and Edmund Muskie, Pastor James Bevel, the famous artist Jane Fonda and many other prominent figures also served their terms, into the march and speak at the meeting.

At a convention on August 22, the Michigan branch of the Democratic Party passed a resolution pressing for an end to the Viet Nam war and withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam. The

US Senate had unanimously approved an amendment bill demanding reduction of allowances to Pak Jung Hi and Thieu Kyu in South Viet Nam. This strong action of the US Congress was aimed at strengthening the Cooper-Church bill, preventing the Nixon administration from squandering greenbacks in the US war in Southeast Asia.

In their drive against racism and for employment, US Afro-Americans also put up stubborn fight against the Viet Nam war. At the annual meeting of the "Congress of Church in the Black" held on August 11, Black leader R. Abernathy strongly scored the US aggressive war in Viet Nam

Two days later 60 students held, on behalf of the whole of Pharmacy Faculty in Saigon, a 24-hour hunger-strike in protest against the puppet ruling circle's drafting of pharmacists, male and female. Representatives of the pharmacy students called at the puppet Presidency and the National Defence Department on

and Indochina. Taking the floor at a meeting in San Francisco, Hugh Newton, Chairman of the "Black Panthers," called on all social organizations and sections of people in the US to support the just struggle of the South Vietnamese patriots against the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate in Saigon.

On August 29 about 10,000 Mexican-Americans held a big rally in east Los Angeles to protest against the Nixon administration's war of aggression in Indochina and particularly the forcible conscription of large numbers of Mexican-Americans to fight in Viet Nam.

The participants demanded the immediate cessation of the war in Viet Nam, withdrawal of all American troops from here and better living conditions for national minorities in the United States. The job of the Mexican-Americans is to struggle for social reforms and equal rights in the USA, and not to die in the Viet Nam jungles to defend the Washington policy of aggression, said one of the speakers at the rally.

Mr Agnew was afraid of, and angry at, the growth of the anti-war movement. On August 17 he publicly flung his accusations at the congressmen the hostile to the Viet Nam war and whipped up an "atmosphere of hysteria" by saying that this appointment was but a move to hoodwink those who wanted to settle the Viet Nam problem by political means. The letter suggested that Bruce resign his post.

On August 21, the US Senate passed an amendment to the bill introduced by Senator W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for suspension of all payments to the Saigon and Bangkok troops or any other army units of US satellite countries fighting in Cambodia and Laos. Before that date, on August 20, the

the seacoast pounded by guns of the 7th Fleet... In 1967, in Quang Binh Province, shortly after the murderous bombardments, screening teams were invited to project films amidst the smouldering ruins of a destroyed hamlet. It was not rare to see among the audience people wearing mourning bands, because cinema was for them more than a relaxation, it fanned up the hatred for the enemy and stiffened their determination to fight him.

SAIGON STUDENT AGITATION UNABATED

On August 19, 1970 a spokesman of the Saigon General Association of Students denounced the puppet authorities' herding of 2,000 prisoners, who had served their terms, into Hoi Mang Ca and Van Thanh barracks and compelling them to wear military uniforms and replenish the puppet 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 34th Regiments. They were afterward sent to the A So, Khe Sanh, Ba Long and Lao Khe fields.

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August 22 to hand in protests. Besides, in one of their statements, they threatened a second drive of actions should their claims not be met. Then they began to call a school strike and boycott the examination organized by the puppet administration. This campaign took place on until September 5 pending the rulers' response.

Delegates of students and pupils in Saigon, Can Tho, Da Lat and Hue convened on August 30 a conference at Saigon Agricultural College to discuss steps against the administration's repression of students. The gathering was in session when the participants learned of Nguyen Van Thien's arrival to Saigon Town Hall to vote in the partial "Senate" elections. They immediately left the meeting-hall, lined up

and staged a protest parade in front of US Embassy. They were savagely threatened with puppet policemen there. Huynh Tan Mam, President of the SGAS, was beaten to unconsciousness and badly wounded, 117 others including 42 girl students were taken away. The news covering the demonstration and their films confiscated. Angered by such brutalities the South Vietnamese Journalists' Committee of Defence of Press Freedom on August 30 protested and announced that on September 1 it would meet to find measures against the puppet authorities' "abuse of power." In addition, the Vietnamese Women's Committee for the Defence of their Right to Live also came out for the students and newsmen.

regarding the royal mausoleums and monuments.

After that, we returned to the former office of the French Resident. The next day, August 31, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the delegation entered the Imperial Citadel and mounted the Ngo Mon mirror to receive Bao Dai's abdication. By the time, big crowds had gathered on the large lawn in front of the Ngo Mon gate from the Thuong Tu gate to the foot of the citadel, estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 in strength (many came from the city's outskirts). When we reached the Ngo Mon mirror we already saw Bao Dai there dressed up in his royal attire, yellow head-dress and colour beaded shoes. That was the last time the last king of the Nguyen Dynasty put on his royal outfit. He and Mr Hoe greeted us and saw us up to the rostrum. Bao Dai was accompanied by some other high-ranking mandarins.

"citizen Vinh Thuy." Bao Dai seemed deeply moved by the gesture. Then he took leave of us. There ended the abdication ceremony.

A mass demonstration immediately followed. The people streamed out through the streets of the city, through the streets on the left bank of the Perfume River, crossed the Trang Thi bridge into the other sector of the city, in a sea of flags and slogans. The people did not go completely when we returned to the former office of the French Resident. Looking toward the Ngo Mon gate we saw a big, bright red-and-yellow flag fluttering on top of the mirror. Next morning, August 31, we set out on our trip back to Hanoi to report to the Government before the Independence Declaration ceremony scheduled for September 2, 1945.

The Provisional Government instructed Le Van Hien to stay on for some time in Hue in order, together with the Thieu Thien and Hue People's Revolutionary Council, to take over the Royal Palace and make the inventory of the property of the Hue Court, including arms, treasure, and other his personal belongings) which from now on became property of the revolutionary State.

"Fellow-countrymen! Our nation's history has come to a turning point. The imperial regime has been compelled to give place to the democratic republican regime, in compliance with the common aspiration of our entire people and its natural development of history. One thing we should point out here is that the democratic republican regime has not come fortuitously to our people but through a sustained effort of its many combatants and people during many past decades. The struggle for the creation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has always been linked to the

battle for national independence..."

As Tran Huy Lieu was finishing, the tens of thousands strongly rallied thundered: "Hurray for the Provisional Government!", "Long live independent Viet Nam!", "Long live the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam!"

It was an awkward moment for Bao Dai. He did not know what to do and what to say. Only Bao Dai, who did he say: "Now I have become a citizen of an independent country. I request the independence of the Provisional Government to give me something as a souvenir of this moment." After a brief consultation with Nguyen Luong Bang and myself, Tran Huy Lieu pinned a badge bearing the golden-starred red flag (which the People's Revolutionary Government had pinned on our lapels) on Bao Dai's tunic. Tran Huy Lieu told me to propose to the audience to give some cheers to Bao Dai, now citizen Vinh Thuy. "Bao Dai seemed deeply moved by the gesture. Then he took leave of us. There ended the abdication ceremony."

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A CINEMA...

(Continued from page 3)

MANY foreign spectators or critics are sensitive to the lyricism which prevails in Vietnamese films. At the Moscow Film Festival in 1959, Georges Sadoul remarked that *Chung mot gieng song* was a work rich in poetry and imbued with the traditional culture and pregnant with promises. The bulletin of the Karlov Vary Festival in 1962 had this to say of *Con chim canh khuyen* (Special prize): "It epitomizes all the beauty of

the landscape and the people's life, a full life of poetry. We are totally transported by the rhythm of that moving story."

The Vietnamese scenery is pervaded by a discreet and penetrating poetry. With its refinement, sensibility, optimism, love of nature and the Motherland, the Vietnamese soul finds a faithful echo in the folk song which permeates all our artistic branches including our nascent cinema.

No wonder that, besides feature films, two samples of which have been mentioned above, lyricism can be found also in such documentaries as *Dan song ngon gio*, or *Duong ra phia truce* and such animated cartoons as *Meo con* (The Kitten).

PUPPET TROOPS' HEAVY LOSSES...

(Continued from page 8)

district capitals and townlets, the rear base of Regiment 10, Division 7, and the base of Regiment 14, Division 9, in Ben Tre province were assaulted. They were destroyed about 40 "strategic hamlets." In Rach Gia province, the enemy was trounced on Xeo Ro canal, Ba Dinh River, Doc River and Hon So canal. On the Ba Dinh front (14 km south of Gi Quao) Battalion 3 (Regiment 33, puppet Division 21) was wiped out in one night. So was another company two days later. In Tra Vinh province, in the first half of August, 300 enemy troops were killed, 104 strategic hamlets were demolished and 14 towns were entirely liberated.

Xa Mat, north of Saigon, was the scene of a holocaust of Saigon puppet units bestricken Cambodia. From mid-July to the end of August, the enemy sustained 1,200 casualties and 270 military vehicles destroyed.

South of Trung Bo, in the first half of August, in the provinces of Binh Thuan, Tuyen Duc and Binh Tuy, the PLAF wiped out nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers including 7 American companies. The rush on enemy infantry company and an artillery company of US Regiment 199 at Nui Gia (Binh Tuy) vividly illustrated the great destructiveness of the PLAF in the enemy defence line.

In a word, the August 1970 military operations of the South Viet Nam liberation forces augured a new US defeat by puppet troops of the outer belt and its "special pacification" plan.

BEYOND its burning topicality and its sympathy earned by the successful confrontations of the Vietnamese people with two biggest Western military powers, the Vietnamese cinema has carved out a special niche among the cinemas of countries which have gained national independence after World War II, as evidenced by the prizes and diplomas awarded it by various international festivals.

Stimulated by the results obtained with its own efforts, and by the sympathy and assistance of film producers and filmmakers in all countries, especially the socialist camp, the Vietnamese cinema is doing its best to build up an art worthy of its people and to make a modest contribution to world progressive cinematography.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, a few days after our return to Hanoi from the Tan Trao People's Congress (1), President Ho Chi Minh appointed a delegation of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to receive Bao Dai's abdication in Hue (the Provisional Government had previously asked by cable Bao Dai to abdicate and he was agreeable. He had also notified the Provisional Government that he was willing for its representative to tender his abdication and "hand over national power" to the revolutionary government).

The government delegation comprised three members: Tran Huy Lieu, its leader, Nguyen Luong Bang, and myself. We set out on the morning of August 27, 1945 in a black car borrowed from the French-owned STAI garage. We thought that if we travelled also by night we

National Liberation Committee elected by the National People's Congress at Tan Trao... He spoke for about ten minutes and the crowds were, understandably, far from being satisfied. As he paused, slogans again rang out: "Long live independent Viet Nam!", at times only "Independent Viet Nam!", "Independent Viet Nam!". The crowds grew bigger and thicker after Ha Tinh. In many portions of the road our car was literally encircled. At other times when we arrived at Ron ferry, crossing after passing the Deo Ngang. It was already late in the afternoon and there was a big throng assembled at the ferry. We asked them to go home because of the darkness and a representative replied: "We have been waiting in the rain since noon..." We

The meeting was most stirring and moving. Group after group the insurgent population filed past the rostrum, chanting slogans all the while. During the meeting, Pham Khac Hoe (2), Chief of Secretariat of Bao Dai, came to the office of the delegation. In the afternoon of August 29, Mr. Hoefin his ceremonial black robe and turban called on us at the office of the People's Revolutionary Committee temporarily installed in the former office of the French Resident. He said the King was willing to abdicate and hand over national power to the Provisional Government. The King only had a few wishes:

- a) The members of the Royal Family to be regarded by the Government as citizens (i.e. without discrimination).
- b) The mandarins of the Imperial Court to be allowed to contribute, each according to his spirit and ability,

THE LAST MOMENTS OF A DYNASTY

Reminiscences by CU HUY CAN

could make Hue by early August 28, and accordingly notified the Hue People's Revolutionary Committee.

However, we could not keep to our schedule because we had reckoned without the cheering crowds along our route. From Thanh Hoa southward we were stopped every dozen kilometres by big groups of people lining the road and waving welcome with golden-starred red flags to the representatives of the Provisional Government. We were greeted by rousing cheers and slogans. Some shouted themselves hoarse. Each time we were halted by an improvised rally, we all stepped out to shake hands with, and talk to, the welcome. In most cases, Tran Huy Lieu had to speak from the back of the car and he did so with great fervour to very attentive audiences. At about 10 a.m. on August 29 we arrived in Hue. I invariably began his speech with something like this: "Comrades and fellow-countrymen! After nearly a century, our country has regained independence, our people have wrested back power and our nation has been freed from slavery, oppression and exploitation. We have washed off the humiliation of a century of colonial bondage. We owe today's glory to the patriotism of our fellow-citizens in resisting foreign aggression, and that patriotism has been brought to an unprecedented peak thanks to the propaganda agitation and organization of the Viet Minh Front which is very clear-sighted and courageous. Now our people throughout the country have risen up like one man and are zealously responding to the call for General Insurrection of the

immediately after we went into the Customs House by the ferry side to address them. Many among the audience were moved to tears when Tran Huy Lieu evoked the days of colonial enslavement, and we, too, could not restrain our emotion. The mood of the crowd switched to wild enthusiasm when the speaker talked of the general insurrection that was sweeping the country from North to South. It continued to rain cats and dogs. Yet, looking at the sea of red flags with golden stars, and the happy but firm faces of the listeners, we had the strange impression that the sun was shining all over the place. On the other bank of the river we ran into another big crowd...

And the same happened again and again until we reached Quang Tri, then Hue, the destination. At about 11 a.m. on August 29 we arrived at My Chanh ferry-crossing. There we were met by To Hsu, Chairman of the Insurance Committee of Hue. He introduced us to the people and Hue that day there and said: "This government is really our government, really the government of our people." Not until noon that day did we get to Hue. We drove straight to the stadium near Cho Cong. There we were told by members of the People's Revolutionary Committees of Thua Thien and Hue that the population had assembled at the stadium on the evening of August 27 and had been sitting for the delegation. We met Le Van Hien, Minister of Labour of the Provisional Government, newly arrived from Da Nang.

ties, to the recovery of national independence.

- c) The tombs and temples of the Nguyen Dynasty to be treated by the Government with "proper regard" (implying a form of vandalism).

As a matter of fact, power had been taken back by the people in the nationwide insurrection under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh, and not "handed over" to the Provisional Government by the puppet king who had effectively been overthrown. With that in mind, we told Mr. Hoe that power had been regained by the people throughout the country and the Government's policy was to unite the entire people to safeguard national independence. As for the imperial tombs and monuments, the King could set his mind at rest. The delegation of the Provisional Government laid out the following additional terms:

1. After the abdication ceremony, Bao Dai should leave the Royal Palace and should enjoy all the democratic freedoms like any other citizen.
2. Except for the personal belongings of Bao Dai, his wife Nam Phuong and his mother Tu Cung which would be allowed to be taken out and put at their disposal, all the other property of the King and the Nguyen Dynasty should become State property.
3. All the temples and tombs of the Nguyen kings should be entrusted to the care of the revolutionary State and there should be no

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AUGUST 1970

PUPPET TROOPS' HEAVY LOSSES IN OUTER DEFENCE LINE

THE US troops dug in deeper in the inner defence belt around such big cities as Saigon, Hue and Da Nang. G.P.A. reported. On the other hand, the bulk of puppet regular divisions and reserve forces was sent to defend the outer perimeter or to the Cambodia and Laos but could not bear the brunt of PLAF punches and suffered heavy losses.

South of the 17th parallel, after heavy casualties on Hill 935 (West of Hue) at the end of July, ca. the 101st Heliborne Division hurriedly withdrew from that sector and was replaced by 6 battalions of the puppet First Division. Coc Bai, Cu Pung and Da Ban became a hothouse of puppet troops. All through August, PLAF artillery and ground forces hit hard at enemy positions and intercepted his rallies to clear the terrain. The US and Airborne Brigade had to be sent to the rescue of the puppet units and got badly battered. The situation of the enemy in this area was as gloomy as that in the North of that sector. His defence line along Highway No 9 (from Cua Viet to Cam Lo) came under constant fire. In his rear, from Dong Ha to Phu Bai, his position at Nam Hoa, and Pho Trach were also stormed. According to initial reports, in the first 25 days of August, PLAF men executed a toll of nearly 4,000 enemy troops, downed about 90 aircraft, wrecked 67 military vehicles (50 tanks and armoured cars) and 61 cannons and sank 13 transports and combat launches.

Further South, in Da Nang area and in Quang Nam town, the enemy also licked the dust. The heavy onslaught of the PLAF on the Hue area had caused serious damage and forced him to evacuate the region and dig in the coastal area. According to still incomplete figures in 44 days (up to the end of July) the enemy lost 140 men.

In the Mekong Delta and the three frontiers north of Saigon the enemy was not in a better position either. In one night nearly 100 posts, 6 sub-sectors,

(Continued page 2)

hindrance to visits to these places for the purpose of worship.

The abdication ceremony was set for the afternoon of August 30. Mr. Hoe again came to see us and said: "I King earnestly requests the permission to hoist the yellow flag of the Nguyen Dynasty for the last time on the flagpole at the Ngo Mon gate at the abdication ceremony. After the reading of the Abdication Declaration, the yellow flag will be lowered and the golden-starred red flag of the revolution hoisted in its place." Our delegation agreed. Also on the afternoon of August 29, we decided to go to the Royal Palace for an interview with Bao Dai. The question of how to address him was taken up. We came to the conclusion that he should not use the title "Your Majesty." But the vocative "Sir" would sound a bit queer. Finally, we opted for "Your Excellency." At 4 p.m. or more, our car flying the golden-starred red flag drove straight through the Ngo Mon gate which, according to the royal etiquette, was only opened on State

occasions and reserved only for the puppet monarch and the French governor general. We arrived at the Kien Trung Palace, the residence of Bao Dai. There Mr. Hoe had been expecting us at the foot of the steps. We were greeted at the main door of the palace by Bao Dai dressed in a blue robe. After the salutations, he spoke first, saying in substance that he was very happy to see over the country's reins to the Provisional Government. As he put it, for more than twenty years, he had known, "there was only the bitter feeling of humiliation and powerlessness" because "many things I wanted to do for the good of the country could not be done." On behalf of the delegation Tran Huy Lieu praised the King's decision to abdicate and explained the Government's policy of uniting the entire people for safeguarding national independence. Bao Dai said he was very happy with the conditions of the Provisional Government (transmitted to him by Mr. Hoe) and thanked the delegation for its assurances

(Continued page 2)